

Coronavirus (COVID 19) Update Number 13



July 13th, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your families are continuing to keep safe and well. With the end of term approaching I felt that a further update regarding the position within school would be most helpful and informative.

First, I would like to say how welcome and appreciative the kind messages of support as well as your understanding regarding our plans for a transitional, gradual and graded opening of school in September have been received. The Governing Body are in full support of this plan.

As you will understand, the situation with the Coronavirus pandemic is an ever changing one, but it is clear that we must not become complacent as, even with the relaxing of regulations, it is still ever present and continuing. We need to remember this, especially with some surrounding locations to Milton Keynes being high risk areas.

I do acknowledge that with school being open for only a few pupils and the summer holiday approaching the pressures of having your son / daughter at home is starting to have an impact. However, I would like to point out that the percentage of pupils for whom we have been open is higher than most special schools.

This week class teachers will be emailing you the end of year reports, which are in a new format to tie in with our curriculum work. Please could I ask that the parents comment sheet, or any other comments are not directed to your son / daughters class teacher but to the parents@theredway.net email.

I have asked all teachers who are new to your son / daughter to give you a call to introduce themselves before the end of term. Transition documentation will also be emailed to you from them.

For information, this week is the final week that class teachers will be in contact as we officially break up for the summer holiday on Friday July 17th. If you have any concerns or questions over the summer holiday, then please either email into the parent's email address or telephone the main school where your message will be received and forwarded to the relevant person for action.

Please do also remember that the Children with Disabilities Social Work Team Duty Desk is operational as well as is the Complex Needs Nursing Team throughout the summer and they will be of support too.

Arrangements for September:

- As mentioned earlier, our reopening of the school will be a transitional, gradual and graded one throughout September with the intention of the majority of pupils being in school as from October 1st. As I have stated previously, should you wish to keep your son / daughter at home there is no pressure from school for them to return immediately in September.
- Until October 1st pupils will be in school, 2 days per week. More information regarding which days your son / daughter will be in school will be sent out no later than the second week of August.
- As from October 1st the school will be open for all pupils Monday to Friday lunchtime - closing early at 1pm for a full, deep clean and decontamination, as well as enabling staff to ensure all classroom equipment is sterilised.
- Risk assessments confirm that we would be in a high risk category if we had all pupils and staff in school as from September 7th. At the main site this would mean 150 pupils and over 200 staff in very crowded working conditions.
- The start and end times of the school day will be staggered, and pupils will be entering and leaving the school via different doorways. Information regarding this will be included in the details that will be sent out in August.
- Upon arrival at school the temperature will be taken of every pupil (as well as staff.) It would be helpful if you could also take your son / daughters temperature before they come to school.
- We will be operating in different 'bubbles' come September, in order to keep everyone, pupils and staff as safe as possible.
- Additional cleaning arrangements throughout the day, are in place for all bathroom areas, the pool changing rooms, the gym and other specific areas.
- Staff who work with some pupils, may wear full PPE equipment, for their own safety.

- Pupils who have their own individual school transport may use this, but ONLY if the driver and the escort wear face masks.
- At the start of term, we will not be using school passenger transport. We are hoping that as from October 1st this will change and that they will support us in looking at our pupil bubbles and arrange for smaller groups on buses with pupils in each bubble.
- It continues to be absolutely imperative that when your son / daughter is in school that you are contactable at all times. Should they become ill they will be isolated, and you are expected to collect them within 30 minutes of being notified.

As I am sure you will all agree, we as a school at all times, but especially so during this everlasting pandemic, place a high standard on trying to ensure as much as possible the continued good health of all our pupils, staff and their families.

One final point, I am aware of some families who are travelling during the summer holiday, some on long haul flights. I would like to remind those of you who are doing so that a 2 week quarantine period for areas travelled that are outside Europe is required.

Thank you once again for all your ongoing support with our plans and procedures.

Hoping you all stay safe and well.

Ruth Sylvester
Headteacher